

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-02 /025 W

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R 070530Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2625

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: RESUMPTION OF USER CHARGES NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 039720

1. AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL, CONGEN INFORMED ATG OF ACCEPTANCE OF APRIL 7 MEETING DATE AND EXTENDED INVITATION TO GOA TO HOLD FORTHCOMING ROUND IN WASHINGTON. LATER PYMAN ADVISED US INFORMALLY THAT GOA WAS NOT PREPARED TO GO TO WASHINGTON FOR MEETINGS. MINISTER JONES, SECONDED BY SECRETARY HALTON, FELT THAT AS WE WERE THE COMPLAINING PARTY THERE WAS NO REASON FOR GOA TO GO TO WASHINGTON. HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT JONES WAS TREATING IT AS A POLITICAL QUESTION.

2. IN ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT A MODUS OPERANDI DISCUSSED SITUATION WITH WALDMAN WHILE HE WAS IN CANBERRA SUGGESTING HE CONTACT HALTON TO DISCUSS PROBLEM AND WORK OUT A COMPROMISE. UNFORTUNATELY, HALTON AT MEETINGS IN SYDNEY DURING THAT PERIOD AND WALMAN UNABLE TO REACH HIM. FURTHER CONVERSATIONS WITH PYMAN REVEALED NO CHANGE IN POLICY AND RECEIPT OF LETTER WHICH OFFICIALLY ANSWERS OURS OF FEBRUARY 24 CONFIRMS THIS. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF RESPONSE WHICH INCLUDES ANSWER TO REQUEST FOR EASTMAN TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA:

QUOTE: I HAVE DISCUSSED THE MATTERS RAISED IN YOUR  
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LETTER OF 24 FEBRUARY REGARDING MEETINGS CONCERNING

USER CHARGES WITH THE SECRETARY AND DEPUTY SECRETARY, AIR TRANSPORT GROUP. I SHOULD NOW LIKE TO CONFIRM THE ADVICE I GAVE YOU ON THE PHONE LAST WEEK THAT, ALTHOUGH AS INDICATED IN OUR EARLIER COMMUNICATION TO YOU, A DATE AROUND 7 APRIL IS ACCEPTABLE TO US, THE SUGGESTION IN YOUR LETTER OF 24 FEBRUARY THAT THE MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN WASHINGTON DOES RAISE SUBSTANTIAL PROBLEMS FOR US.

IT IS RELEVANT TO MENTION THAT IT WOULD BE OUR ROLE, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, WHEN THE DISCUSSIONS ARE RESUMED TO PROVIDE THE FULLEST POSSIBLE INFORMATION ON THE BASIS FOR AUSTRALIAN CHARGES, AN OBJECTIVE WHICH WAS NOT ATTEMPTED AT THE MONTREAL TALKS SINCE THEY WERE REGARDED AS PRELIMINARY AND BASICALLY AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE UNITED STATES SIDE TO INDICATE THE LINES OF THEIR ENQUIRIES. IN ORDER TO MEET SUCH AN OBJECTIVE FOR THE SECOND ROUND OF TALKS, WE MAY WELL FIND IT NECESSARY TO DRAW UPON A NUMBER OF EXPERT SOURCES OF INFORMATION AS THE TALKS PROCEED.

ONE MAJOR PROBLEM, THAT MAY BE INCURABLE, IS THAT OF HAVING AVAILABLE OUTSIDE AUSTRALIA AT THE TIME INDICATED, ALL THE OFFICERS REQUIRED FOR THE PRESENTATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE CASE ON THE AUSTRALIAN USER CHARGES POSITION.

PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY COULD ARISE IN THIS CONNECTION BECAUSE OF THE INVOLVEMENT OF SENIOR OFFICERS WHO WOULD BE NEEDED FOR THE TALKS WITH THE UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVES BUT WHO HAVE IMPORTANT AND URGENT POLICY RESPONSIBILITIES IN CONNECTION WITH SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT WHEN IT RESUMES AFTER EASTER.

AS YOU WILL HAVE UNDERSTOOD FROM WHAT I HAVE SAID TO YOUR PREVIOUSLY IT IS OUR HOPE THAT, IMMEDIATELY BEFORE OR AFTER THE TALKS ON CHARGES, WE CAN ALSO ARRANGE DISCUSSIONS ON THE AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT PROBLEMS THAT ARE STILL OUTSTANDING BETWEEN US. THE PRECISE TIMING OF SUCH DISCUSSIONS MUST, OF COURSE, BE AFFECTED BY THE OUTCOME OF THE PAN AMERICAN/AMERICAN CASE ON ROUTINGS AS IT WAS QUITE EVIDENT DURING OUR LAST ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS SOME TWELVE MONTHS AGO THAT THAT CASE HAS A VERY DIRECT RELATIONSHIP TO YOUR DELEGATION'S ABILITY TO DEBATE FULLY WITH US THE OUTSTANDING BILATERAL AIR SERVICES AGREEMENT ISSUES.

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REGARDING MR. EASTMAN'S VISIT, THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO PURELY TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS REGARDING FACILITIES PROVIDED AT THE SYDNEY AND MELBOURNE AIRPORTS FOR INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC AIRLINES AND GENERAL AVIATION. THERE ARE, HOWEVER, TWO POINTS TO BE MENTIONED. FIRST, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU COULD OBTAIN FOR US A SLIGHTLY MORE ELABORATE DEFINITION OF THE PRECISE ASPECTS MR. EASTMAN WOULD BE RAISING. THIS WOULD HELP US TO

ENSURE THAT APPROPRIATE OFFICERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR  
INFORMAL TALKS WITH HIM. THE SECOND POINT RELATES TO  
TIMING. THE FIXING OF THE DATE FOR HIS VISIT MAY WELL BE  
AFFECTED VERY MUCH BY THE DATE AND PLACE OF THE DISCUSSIONS  
ON USER CHARGES YET TO BE AGREED. I HAVE SUGGESTED IN THIS  
REPLY THAT IT IS STILL OUR HOPE THEY CANB BE HELD IN AUSTRALIA  
AND OUR INVATION TO THAT EFFECT, OF COURSE, REMAINS  
IN  
BEING. YOURS SINCERELY. (SIGNED) T.A. PYMAN. UNQUOTE.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AVIATION AGREEMENTS, AIRPORT FEES, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 07 MAR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MELBOU00240  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750080-0131  
**From:** MELBOURNE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750372/aaaacnbd.tel  
**Line Count:** 125  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 039720  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05 MAY 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <06 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CIVAIR: RESUMPTION OF USER CHARGES NEGOTIATIONS  
**TAGS:** EAIR, AS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006